Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete current paragraph [003] and insert the following:

[003] Most bar code readers are comprised of a laser, an optical timing detector for synchronizing the start of each scan by the reader, a rotating multifaceted mirror for passing a beam produced by the laser across the bar code during a scan period and diverting light reflected back at the reader during the scan period towards an optically sensitive scan detector, the optically sensitive scan detector converting the reflected light into an equivalent electrical signal, a logic detector for converting the equivalent electrical signal into unique logic states, and a coupling for carrying the equivalent electrical signal from the scan detector to the logic detector. Typically, the optically sensitive scan detector includes a field effect transistor (FET) input gain stage that impresses a direct current (DC) offset on the detected signal. As a result, the most common coupling employed between the scan detector and the logic detector is [[an AC]] a resistor-capacitor (RC) coupling because it can be designed to remove the DC offset created by the scan detector. Fig. 1 shows a common [[AC]] RC coupling configuration comprising a resistor and a capacitor operatively connected to each other. Fig. 2 shows an exemplary output signal of the [[AC]] RC coupling depicted in Fig. 1. Note the DC offset of the output signal relative to 0 volts DC.

Please delete current paragraph [004] and insert the following:

[004] Two common conditions in the vicinity of the bar code can have a negative effect on the output signal of the scan detector. The first condition is a fluctuation in background light level. As the level of background light in the vicinity of the bar code changes the output signal level of the optical detector during the non-scan or no laser reflectance periods varies as well. Usually the effect of this first condition on the operation of the reader is negligible and may be ignored. The second condition is the degree of spectral reflectance from the background on which the bar code is printed or attached. The more reflective the background and/or the closer to perpendicular the angle of incidence of the laser beam with the target the higher the degree of spectral reflectance received by the optical detector. However, the amount of light reflected from the barcode itself during both the scan and non-scan periods is relatively independent of background type and remains essentially

the same. This results in the average DC level of the optical detector output signal varying with the degree of spectral reflectance from the background. Moreover, an [[AC]] RC coupling between the optical detector and the logic detector will not remove the effects of the changes in average DC level of the optical detector output signal. If the spectral reflectance is high enough the effect can be to shift that portion of the optical detector output signal containing the bar code information outside the logic detector window of operation, thereby impairing the operation of the bar code reader. This condition is sometimes referred to as retro-reflectance.